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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Huang Chen, Chief of the Liaison Office of the
Peoples Republic of China, Washington
Tsien Ta-yung, Counselor of the Liaison Office
Chi- Chao-chu, Interpreter and Political
Counselor of the Liaison Office

Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State
Winston Lord, Director, Policy Planning Staff
Department of State.

DATE, TIME
AND PLACE:

April 22, 1974
5:40-6:15 p.m. (continuation of meeting begun at 5:30) = 77
Secretary's Office, Department of State

(After Messrs. Hummel, EA, and, Solomon, NSC, left, the discussion continued.)

The Secretary: The President has asked me to raise a matter with you. What I wanted to talk to you about, Mr. Ambassador, is that we have had a letter from a man called Harned Hoose. He has been four times to China the last two years, and he has been in contact there with a Chinese by the name of Wang Chen-chuan.

Ambassador Huang: I don't know about that.

The Secretary: He's supposed to be the Mayor of Canton. Mr. Hoose claims that Mr. Wang has asked him to establish a direct contact to the President through General Haig.

Mr. Chi: He's supposed to be the Mayor of Canton?

The Secretary: (Looking at a document) It says that he is the Mayor of Kwang-chou.

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Mr. Chi: That's Canton.

The Secretary: And the Deputy Mayor of Kwang-chou Province.
(The Ambassador laughs incredulously.)

Allegedly, he says that you would like to get from us some photos of Soviet military installations in return for some unspecified quid-pro-quo. (There is considerable discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: This is totally impossible.

The Secretary: That's all I wanted to say.

Ambassador Huang: What kind of person is this Mr. Hoose? Is he an American?

The Secretary: Yes.

Mr. Chi: Has he had any communication with your Administration or the State Department?

The Secretary: No. He knows something about China. I don't know his background exactly. He served in China either with the Army or something. I don't know his background. He presented himself to my office a couple of years ago. I asked him to prepare papers, such as an analysis of the Chinese novel, analysis of Chairman Mao's poetry, etc., just to help me understand the Chinese. I have had no contact with him at all.

Mr. Chi: He was in the Army in China?

The Secretary: I don't know. He is not our agent; he came to us claiming he speaks for you. I'm asking your opinion.

Ambassador Huang: I know nothing about him.

The Secretary: Let me read his message to you (reading from the document). Wang Chen-chuan said the following at the Mindzu Hotel in Room 901 on several occasions in Peking on March 3-6. I just got this message, incidentally; otherwise, I would have raised it with your Deputy Prime Minister. I didn't know about it at the dinner.

(Continuing reading from the document.) After several months and having gotten acquainted with Mr. Wang, he said that I (Hoose) could transmit messages to the President of the United States via General Haig; and thought I could be trusted to maintain total secrecy with respect to such messages.

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Ambassador Huang: I think that's entirely impossible.

The Secretary: They said what was wanted is photos of Soviet military installations and the Chinese would be prepared to reciprocate, and we could make specific proposals.

Ambassador Huang: I know nothing about this person.

The Secretary: Do you want to check in Peking?

Ambassador Huang: As I see it, there is no need. (He looks to Tsien Ta-yung who confirms his position.)

The Secretary: As far as we are concerned, you know our position about military information, and it doesn't require such a complicated procedure. We don't ask for a quid-pro-quo. When we have information which we believe is relevant to the security of the Peoples Republic, we will give it to you. But as I said I got this from General Haig.

Good. So we will not reply to this. (There is further discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: As we see it, this is totally impossible.

The Secretary: So we will not reply. Your government will understand. We use this channel for communication.

(There is further discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: The question of a reply is not really an issue. We have no particular viewpoint on this matter.

The Secretary: At any rate, this is not an official communication.

Mr. Chi: From our government?

The Secretary: Yes.

Ambassador Huang: I myself know nothing about this. It is my conviction that it is totally impossible for our Deputy Governor to say such a thing to him.

The Secretary: So we will do nothing.

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Ambassador Huang: It is really inconceivable.

The Secretary: It seems inconceivable to us, but it had so much detail. You can read the message that the man wrote to me. (Gesturing with the document. There is discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: There is really no need for us to look at it.

The Secretary: Good.

Ambassador Huang: You will be going to the Middle East very shortly.

The Secretary: Yes, a week from Sunday.

Mr. Lord: A week from Sunday?

The Secretary: No, I mean this Sunday.

Ambassador Huang: I remember when you were going to the Middle East, I wished you good success. While I was in China, you went again three times. You did gain success. So we hope that on this new trip to the Middle East you will gain new achievements.

The Secretary: Thank you very much.

Ambassador Huang: We can see that the Russians are very unhappy. As soon as you left Syria, Gromyko went there.

The Secretary: But it doesn't show very great self-confidence in their behavior. Now they are very eager for Gromyko to meet me in Damascus. But in any event, we will not permit the Soviet Union to participate in active negotiations. And I am going to stop in Algiers and Cairo, and then I will go to Damascus.

Ambassador Huang: Actually, the Soviet Union is the real obstacle to a solution.

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The Secretary: Oh yes, definitely, because they are afraid it will undermine their position in Syria as it has in Egypt. And they are right.

Ambassador Huang: Of course. They want to do it and keep their influence in Syria. Of course they are unhappy about your going to Syria.

The Secretary: We did this since seeing the Deputy Prime Minister. We are also establishing a contact with the government in Iraq. This is only to establish contact at first; we have to encircle them before we can negotiate. We will try to move them out of the Soviet sphere, too.

Ambassador Huang: I understand this, as you discussed it with our Deputy Prime Minister. Your work on Iraq through Syria, after you work on Syria.

The Secretary: Exactly.

Mr. Ambassador, I hope we will see something of you now that you are back in town. Whenever you have anything, you know you can always see me quickly.

(Ambassador Huang asked Tsien Ta-yung a question.)

Ambassador Huang: You know that Senator Mansfield has been wishing to visit China. We'd already agreed in principle to the visit; it's just a question of time. Do you have any views on this?

The Secretary: We favor it. We think it's a good idea and helpful to Sino-U.S. relations.

Ambassador Huang: It's just a question of finding a mutually acceptable and convenient time with the Senator.

The Secretary: Will you discuss this with the Senator? (There is discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: The Senator has invited the Ambassador to lunch next Tuesday.

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The Secretary: Good. (There is discussion among the Chinese.)

Ambassador Huang: I'd like to ask you a question. What do you think about the political situation in France after the death of President Pompidou?

The Secretary: First, despite what some Frenchmen are putting out, we are opposed to Mitterand. U.S. does not want Mitterand to win. And insofar as we can effect the situation, we will support either Chaban Delmas or D'Estaing. And we will do nothing to embarrass the French government.

Now it is our assessment that it could be Mitterand gets the most votes in the first round, but he will not get 50 percent. And there is a good chance in the second round either D'Estaing or Chaban Delmas will get a majority.

Ambassador Huang: That's also our view.

The Secretary: I slightly prefer D'Estaing personally -- this is not an official view -- because I think he's more intelligent than Chaban Delmas. We have no significant view on that subject. That's just a personal judgment. We prefer either one to Mitterand. And I'll even let them keep Jobert as Foreign Minister if they want to. (Laughter) Even with that we'd rather have him than Mitterand win.

Ambassador Huang: Personally, I also think either Chaban Delmas or D'Estaing will win, but it is difficult to say at the present time which one will win.

The Secretary: The only danger is that the Gaulhists have fought so much among each other that everyone is thinking that Mitterand can't win, and therefore it is safe to vote for him in the first ballot, and that by accident he might get over 50 percent. And in that way maybe Mitterand could win, but it's not probable -- that is a slight danger.

Ambassador Huang: I was in France for some years, and I noted their elections.

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The Secretary: I'm not worried about the second ballot -- I'm more worried about the first.

Ambassador Huang: Yes. I think there's a point in what you said. We can't completely disregard such a danger.

The Secretary: At any rate, you can tell Peking that the U. S., insofar as we can do anything to effect the elections, will be anti-Mitterand strongly.

Ambassador Huang: Well, I know you are very busy, so I will leave now.

(As the Chinese were leaving, the Secretary asked if the Ambassador was well settled in town, and he said that he was.)

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